Items confiscated and sold

2053. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the items seized in different International Airports in the country between 1st January and 30th June, 1995;

(b) the steps taken to sell those confiscated items;

(c) the rate at which those items were sold and through which shops; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Goods seized/confiscated under Customs Act, 1962 at various International Airports during the period 1st January to 30th June, 1995 include Indian Currency, Foreign Currency, Electronic goods, Wrist Watches, Gold, Silver, Narcotic Drugs, etc.

(b) Confiscated goods are sold as soon as they become ripe for disposal on conclusion of legal proceedings. Close watch is kept to ensure immediate disposal on goods becoming ripe for disposal.

(c) and (d) Confiscated consumer goods, which are ripe for disposal, are disposed by retail sale at customs counter or through NCCF and consumer co-operative societies. Bulk or trade goods are either auctioned or sold through tender, while hazardous or dangerous goods are destroyed as per instructions issued by the Ministry. Goods of perishable nature and which have limited shelf life, are disposed of immediately after seizure. Gold is being sold through retail counter in Bombay Custom House and Silver through retail counters in the four major Custom House, *i.e.* Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Rates for disposal in case of consumer goods are fixed by valuation committee appointed for this purpose. For non-consumer goods, value is arrived at by way of auction/tender. Gold and Silver are disposed at a rate which is linked to market price of these commodities at Bombay.

Extension of 'Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme'

2054. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not extended the term of the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme which has benefited the farmers enormously; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government of India does not operate on its own any Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme.

Editorial captioned 'Illogical Mega Salaries'

2055. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government's attention has been invited to the Editorial 'illogical mega salaries' published in the 'Economic Times' of 4th July, 1995 and if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard to the high salaries paid and the role of directors nominated by the financial institutions with regard to protecting the interest of their institutions as well as the interest of the shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Yes, Sir, Schedule XIII of the companies Act, 1956 as amended from time to time, deals with appointment and remuneration of Managing Directors whole-time Directors Managers of Public limited companies. The schedule, *inter alia*, provides that companies with adequate net profits as well as loss-making companies or companies with inadequate net profits would

have freedom to work out suitable remuneration packages for their managerial personnel within the prescribed limits.

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) have reported that no formal advice has been issued by financial institutions (FIs) to their nominee directors regarding remuneration of managerial personnel in assisted companies. However, the nominee directors of FIs are expected to act in the best interest of the assisted company and also safeguard the interests of the FI concerned. The nominee directors periodically submit their reports to the FIs concerned on the board meetings attended by them. Based on their reports, where necessary, FIs take up issues with the assisted companies.

Promotions of Field Publicity Officers

2056. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Field Publicity Officers (FPOs) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are serving in the country particularly in the North-Eastern Region for the last 20-30 years, not getting any promotion;

(b) what are the categories of such officers who do not have any promotional avenues throughout their careers;

(c) how many such officers have been promoted to higher posts during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether these officers had appealed to Government for promotion to higher cadre through the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in the recent past; and

(e) if so, what was the outcome of the CAT's verdict in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The present total sanctioned strength of 245 posts of Field Publicity Officers in the Directorate of Field Publicity comprises 188 posts belonging to Indian Information Service Cadre and 57 posts as Field Publicity Officers (Border). The Field Publicity Officers (Border) who were recruited directly through Union Public Service Commission during 1965-66, 1972-74 and 1991-94, do not have promotional avenues at present and none of these officers has got promotion during the last 3 years.

(d) and (e) The application moved by some FPOs (Border) in the Calcutta Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has been admitted and listed for next hearing on 13.9.1995.

Cost of IB Power Project in Orissa

2057. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had written to the then Chief Minister of Orissa in January, 1994 that though the Central Electricity Authority had cleared the IB Power project with AES of USA at a certain cost, there can be scope for further reductions;

(b) if so, why did the CEA clear this project at a higher cost;

(c) whether Government took steps to have the cost reduced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) (a) to (e) Ministry of Power had written the letter under reference to former Chief Minister in January, 1994, when this proposal was at intitial stages and the costs and various terms and